

Governor's Task Force on Shared Municipal Services  
October 25, 2012, 1:00 p.m.  
East Providence City Hall

Present: Chairperson John Simmons, Executive Director Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC); Mayor Donald R. Grebien of Pawtucket; Peter Grazcykowski, City Manager City of East Providence; John McJennett, Receiver City of Central Falls; and Susanne Greschner, Director of the Office of Municipal Finance

Mr. Simmons opened the meeting. The task force voted to approve the minutes from the previous two meetings. He moved on to the next item on the agenda, the joint refuse collection bids. He mentioned that East Greenwich has expressed interest in joining the consortium.

Mayor Grebien mentioned that the privatization talks have been contentious in Pawtucket, but that the city's Purchasing Board voted 3-2 to approve the city engage MTG to provide the services discussed in the RFP. The Mayor then moved on to the topic of sharing the city's Purchasing Agent with East Providence. He said that the refuse discussions had pushed back the purchasing initiative, but David Clemente would be crafting a proposal over the next week and half and should be sending it to East Providence in the next two to three weeks.

Mr. Grazcykowski suggested that the task force vote to issue a recommendation that the three cities move forward with the award of the joint bid. He also stated that East Providence has a plan to extend its current contract with MTG until the other parties are ready to proceed with the joint bid.

Mr. Simmons said that the three communities should negotiate the final terms with MTG together.

Mr. McJennett said that Central Falls has meetings scheduled with Council 94.

Mr. Grazcykowski moved to issue a recommendation to the cities to move forward with contract negotiations with MTG. Mayor Grebien seconded the motion. The task force voted 5-0 in favor of the motion, and to allow for the possible inclusion of additional municipalities.

Ms. Greschner moved on to the next item on the agenda, regional dispatch. She said that the State Police have sent out a survey to 10 northern Rhode Island communities to gather information on current practices and infrastructure. She said that, to date, 8 of the communities had responded and that a meeting is going to be schedule to discuss next steps. Ms. Greschner went on to discuss the task force's efforts on joint assessment, stating that Cranston and Barrington had formally responded to the sub-committee's letter, and that East Greenwich had verbally responded. All three communities are interested.

Mr. Simmons said that RIPEC would contact the other group of towns and set up meetings. He then mentioned a forum on municipal pensions to be held at Brown University at 4:00pm today. Mayor Grebien, Susanne Greschner, and Gayle Corrigan were going to be panelists at the event, and interested parties were encouraged to attend. Mr. Simmons then asked for public comment.

John Burns, representative for Council 94, expressed his concerns with the joint refuse bid. His concerns included that he felt there was a lack of transparency in the process. He believed MTG had submitted two bids, and he wasn't sure which bid was approved by the Purchasing Board.

Mayor Grebien said he believed that issue had already been addressed by his administration, but that he would get back to Mr. Burns with something in writing on the matter.

Mr. McJennett moved to adjourn, Mr. Grazcykowski seconded, and the task force adjourned.

The task force's next meeting will be held November 15 at 1:00pm in East Providence City Hall.